

I am writing in support of the original ARRL proposal RM-11306. The original version of RM-11306 will help to enhance the value of the amateur service to the public via expanded emergency communications capabilities. In my area local hospitals and state and local Health departments have expressed an increased interest in amateur radio's digital capabilities for disaster response purposes. The original RM-11306 as proposed by the ARRL in February 2007 better addresses these needs, while maintaining adequate safeguards other modes of operation and to the recreational amateur radio operator.

The amateur service rules specifically state that the FCC rules and regulations "are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:

- A. Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.
- B. Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the radio art.
- C. Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules, which provide for advancing the skills in both communication and technical phases of the art.

I believe that the original version of RM-11306 better meets these goals as described above than the March 2007 revised version of RM-11306. Therefore I fully support the original version of RM-11306 over the revised version. I am in support of the adoption of either version over no change at all.

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